

City Planners Deny Zone Change

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Boy, 13, Finds Mother Dead After Beating; Father Held

Arrest Father for Suspicion of Murder

A 13-year-old boy discovered the bruised body of his mother early yesterday morning, 12 hours after she suffered a beating by her husband, who has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Dead is Mrs. June Elizabeth Jacobson of 23451 S. Main St., an employee of the Bank of America in Wilmington.

Arrested a short time after the discovery of the dead woman was her husband, 34-year-old Robert Jacobson, a pumpman at the Shell Oil Co. refinery.

Robert, the son, said he went early in the morning to see his mother, who was still in bed. He told police that when he felt her and discovered she was cold, he



ZONE CHANGE DENIED . . . Attorney Donald Armstrong, at microphone, told the Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night that Torrance needed the homes his client intended to erect on land now zoned for industry. He sought a change of zone to permit the construction of the homes on a 55-acre tract in the southwest section of the city. The commission denied the request. The entire proceedings were recorded on tape.

realized she was dead. He then summoned Father Robert Gara of the Catholic Nativity Church, who came to the home and administered the Extreme Unction.

The priest then summoned Charles Goodall of Stone and Myers Mortuary. Goodall noting the bruises on the woman's body refused to move the remains until the coroner's office had been notified.

Sheriff's detectives A. S. Martin and Claude Everly questioned the boy's father. He admitted having a fight with his wife about their son the night before. He told police that during the fight he shoved her against a steel bed post and that she injured her side. He claims he took her to a Wilmington doctor, who is reported to have told her "she had broken several ribs."

An autopsy will be performed on the dead woman on Monday.

Distressing Situation Called for Immediate Action

"You better get over to the City Hall, quick! They're in distress, urged an excited voice on the phone yesterday.

A cameraman made a wild dash for the Torrance municipal headquarters, his coat-tails flying in the breeze behind him.

Sure enough, There was the distress signal. Something was wrong. As the Herald cameraman recorded the scene an unsung hero climbed high on the building's roof and "rescued" the city hall—righting the situation.

The American flag was flying upside down—an internationally recognized signal of distress.

Much relieved were city hall employees who were more distressed at the error than they would have been if the budget had slipped out of balance.

Man Who Lost Both Hands In Accident Dies

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Beck, who lived at 2168 245th St., was a World War II veteran and came to California 34 years ago. He had been employed at the Torrance plant since 1951, plant officials said. He worked as a picker in the plating department.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Beck of Bozeman, Mont.; his sister, Mrs. L. C. Hoy of Santa Cruz; a nephew and two nieces. Interment was held in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale.

National Electric closed down for the day to enable employees to attend the funeral.

Crazed Rooster Attacks Children

Two small children, attacked by a crazed rooster, are recovering today from face bites and bruises around their eyes.

The Rhode Island rooster attacked Lily Esparanza, 2 and a half, of 2163 1/2 S. Main St., yesterday, and when the frightened child raced to the side of her sister, Mrs. Val Avina, the rooster turned on her son, Jesse, 3 and a half, when he tried to shoo the bird away.

The two small children were treated at Harbor General Hospital where doctors reported that the rooster's beak missed their eyes by a fraction of an inch.

Sheriff deputies warned the rooster's owner to keep it locked up.

Crash Flyer Pleads Guilty to Battery

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Chief Stroth said that as he leaned in through the window of Kencade's car to serve him with legal papers Kencade dropped the car in gear and sped away at high rate speed. He said that his arm and shoulder were injured as Kencade jerked the car into motion.

Kencade, who gave his address as 3202 Crickwood Ave., was arrested Thursday as he left the Harbor General Hospital where he had been receiving treatment following an attempted suicide a week ago Friday. Hospital attendants said they carried Kencade on their rolls as "critical" since his suicide try to discourage visitors. Last week the 35-year-old automobile mechanic and amateur flyer threatened to crash his plane into the Half Way House, a cocktail lounge and motel located on the Torrance Municipal Airport where his estranged wife, Ethel, is a waitress. He is also reported to have threatened to kill his wife, her employer, Leo Grindler, and her attorney, Al Isen.

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KIDS HAVE PICNIC AT FIRE . . . Firemen fighting this blaze which sent tall pillars of dense black smoke over eastern sections of the city Tuesday afternoon, did not lack for help out to watch the blaze which did an approximate \$35 damage to scrap lumber. Two chicken sheds were destroyed. Exploding oil drums added to the spectacle. The fire consumed a considerable pile of creosote-soaked timber in a vacant lot between Eshelman and Walnut Aves. south of Lomita Blvd.

Final Decision Now Rests With City Council

The Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night by a 5-4 vote denied a request to change the zoning of a 55-acre tract from heavy manufacturing to residential during one of the hottest hearings of recent years.

C. H. Lebow, owner of the land which is located on the southeast corner of Hawthorne and Sepulveda Blvds., sought the zoning change to enable him to sell the land to a subdivider who would construct single-family residences on the property.

The hearing was recorded on tape and later transcribed to a 14-page, lightly-typed report of the hearing.

Voting for holding the land for industrial use were H. R. Black, L. A. Di Mayle, W. A. Folger, A. H. Hill, and John Salm, in favor of rezoning the property were R. S. Whitcomb, Robert Deininger, Beverly Smith, and Luther Mumford.

Speaking on behalf of the proponents for the zoning change was Attorney Donald Armstrong. He stated that the homes which would be built on the land would encourage industrial development because it would provide homes for factory workers close to their places of employment. Supporting this theory were two letters, one signed by A. D. Wagner, divisional director of the Pittsburgh Paint and Plate Glass Co., and another signed by A. W. Hinz, director of industrial relations for the Harvey Machine Co. Both stated that industry, including those located here now and future industrial firms, look with favor on an area where they can locate their plants in close proximity to homes in which their employees can live.

COUNCIL ACTION NEXT

The commission's action on the matter will be conveyed to the City Council at its meeting scheduled for Tuesday night. The Council will then set a date for a hearing on the request and after hearing oral and written communications will then decide either to go along with the commission and deny the request or to override the planners and grant the zone change.

Speaking in favor of the zone change at Wednesday's meeting was Sylvester Morning representing the developer. He told the planners that because a railroad is located close to the proposed development it should not be considered as being objectionable from a standpoint of safety for children. He stated that the Madrona Ave. School was constructed directly across the street from a railroad line.

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R. Peterson New Lions President

Roy Peterson, with six years of perfect attendance in the Torrance Lions Club, was elected unanimously as president of the local service organization at a meeting of the den on Tuesday.

He succeeds L. Milton Isbell, partner in the Liberty Home Economy Co.

To serve with Peterson, salesman for Paul's Chevrolet, are ten new officers including C. B. Walls, first vice-president; Warren Hamilton, second vice-president; Mott Farrell, third vice-president; Fred Boren, secretary; Pete Radtsich, Dick Miller, tall twisters; Joe DeJaifre, lion tamer; Jack Baldwin, director; and Ruel Molton, director.

Peterson, who lives at 17310 Ardath Ave., has been a resident of Torrance for the past 10 years, coming here from Yankton, S. D. He founded and operated the Valet Cleaners here until 1946, at which time he sold the business and entered the automobile business. He is a member of the Elks Lodge of Redondo Beach and a member of the Board of Managers of the Torrance YMCA.

He is married to Ruth Helen and has two daughters, Karen, 11, and Sandra, 9, both students at the North Torrance Elementary School.

College Gets OK On New Building

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In a memorandum received from Washington, Arfwedson said, the college was notified that no controls remain on civilian construction and that permits for school buildings are no longer required.

Herald Cooking School Opens Next Thursday

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As conducted by Maxine Howe, noted home economist, these two-hour programs are little dramas centered in memories of the rich foods of yesterday about which we all have fond recollections, according to the co-sponsors of the school, the Southern California Gas Co. and the Torrance Herald.

Most of the dishes Miss Howe will prepare were popular during the first half of the century. She has revised the recipes to show standard spoon and cup measurement, with precise flame control as is now provided by modern automatic gas ranges and gas refrigerators.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS . . . Shapely Betty Hutchison, "Miss Auto Showoff," displays some of the trophies she will award to the owners of the best cars entered in the Hot Rod Show starting today at Noon at Narbonne High School. Custom cars, hot rods, coupes, and roadsters will be on display until sundown.

Hot Rod Show Opens Today at Narbonne

Some of the Southland's sharpest looking custom cars and hot rods will be exhibited from noon until sundown today on the athletic field at Narbonne High School during the school-sponsored Hot Rod Show.

Among the 75 cars entered is a \$6000, 188-horsepower Buick, "Skylark," according to Jack Carden, chairman of the show.

Prizes, in the form of elaborate cups and trophies, will be awarded for the best individual cars and car clubs entering the competition. Ralph DePalma, one of automobile racing's all-time

greats, will serve as one of the three judges.

Among the many clubs entering the competition are two clubs from Torrance, the Ambassadors and the Hi-Waymen. According to Carden, who is being aided by Dick Barret and Larry Hennon, some of the most elaborately rebuilt custom cars in Southern California have been entered in the competition. The cars will be judged on appearance and craftsmanship only. Price of admission is 50 cents.

Torrance Area Of US Naval Supply Holds Open House

For the first time since being established, the U. S. Naval Supply Depot's Torrance Storage Area will be open to the general public on Armed Forces Day, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Storage Area is located at 2201 Washington Ave., the corner of Plaza del Amo and Arlington, "Elephant" trains will carry sightseers through the area.

When built in 1945, the buildings were for use of Material Redistribution and Disposal Center. On September 1946 it was taken over for naval use and became what is now known as the Torrance Storage Area.

At present this is a busy military establishment of the Navy Department. The responsibility and authority for the operation is vested in Commanding Officer Captain A. R. Kline, with headquarters at the Naval Supply Depot, San Pedro.

The ships of the fleet and the outlying bases, which dot the map of Southern California, are supplied with food, clothing and working materials from Torrance. The grounds comprising this area consists of 92 acres, with 17 spur rails forming a network to all parts of the grounds and buildings. A Navy-owned switch engine is kept busy during the day with the many box cars which must be unloaded and loaded.

The base maintains four and one-half miles of rail tracks, its own fire department, security police force (complete with all equipment, on 24-hour duty watches), garage—services and all maintenance of vehicle equipment for the Supply Depot, both in Torrance and San Pedro.

It has expanded many times since being built to house the many thousands of items which, due to its wonderful location, the Navy Department has found ideal for the needs of the Navy.

One of the important operations is the storage of reconditioned 55-gallon steel drums. These are shipped into Torrance Storage Area from the far-flung corners of the Pacific and from all points west of the Mississippi. The drums are reconditioned and put back into service again thereby saving the taxpayer thousands of dollars per year.

When ships of the fleet arrive

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Weather

Predicted weather for today in the Torrance area is sunny and warmer, with decreasing winds. The high temperature will probably hit around 74 degrees with a low in the morning of around 50, according to the Weather Bureau.